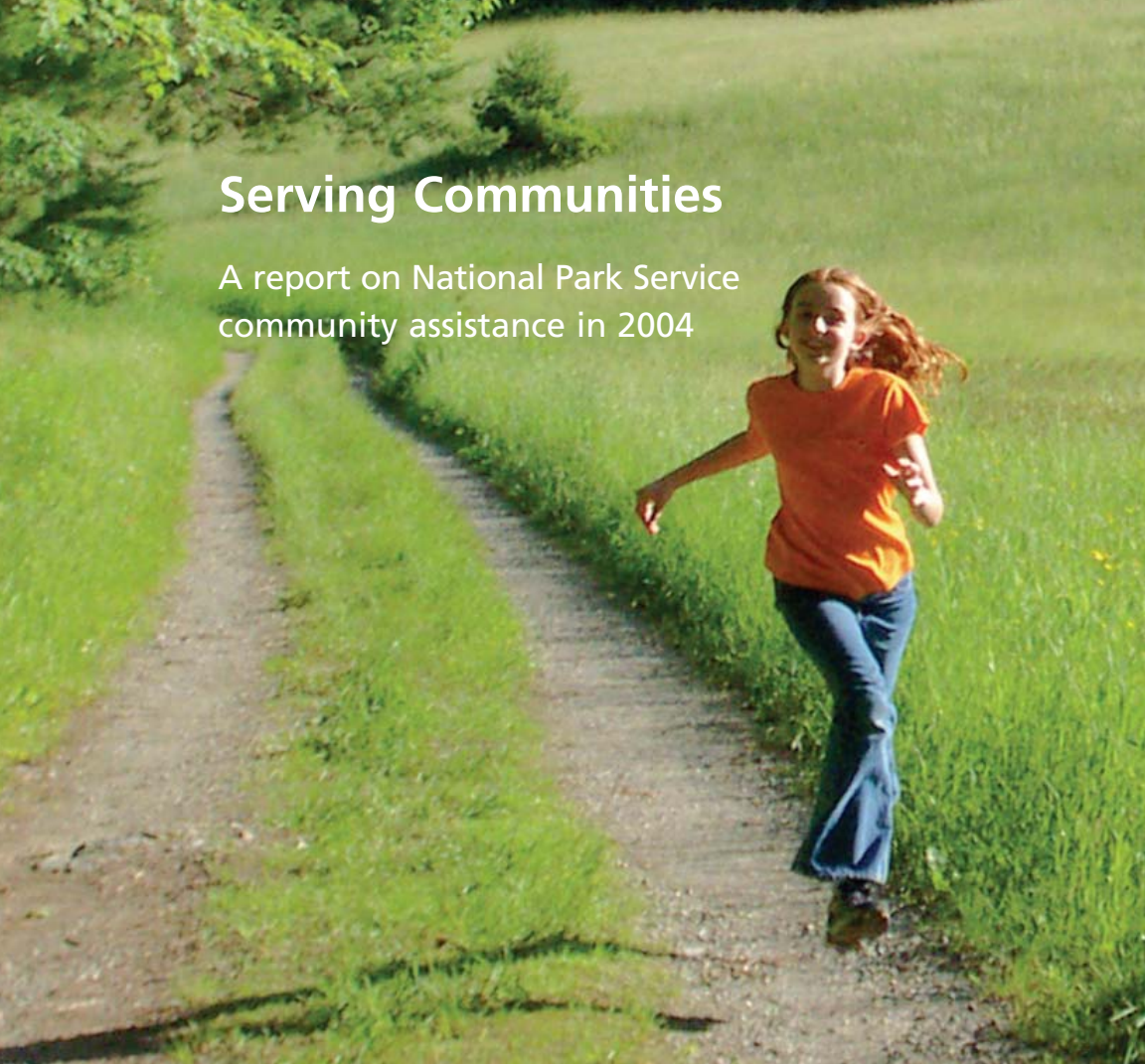


Serving Communities

A report on National Park Service
community assistance in 2004





NPS MISSION

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the country and the world.

Through its Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, the National Park Service implements its natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission in communities across America.

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance: Community Assistance from the National Park Service



Whether you enjoy hiking, cycling, paddling or simply walking, you have already discovered the value of neighborhood parks, walking trails and natural areas in your community. Today, we are learning that these everyday places are actually life-savers and that safe, accessible areas for physical activity contribute significantly to community health. These are the places that truly matter, because this is where we connect with friends and family, stay healthy and enjoy nature.

The National Park Service (NPS) has long recognized and supported close-to-home recreation and preservation of natural areas. Through its River, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, NPS deploys a core team of 90 professional staff to work directly with communities nationwide on an astonishing variety of recreation and conservation initiatives. We draw on NPS experience to help communities help themselves: to create trail networks for walking, cycling and kayaking; to protect lands along streams and rivers for wildlife and water quality; to renew neighborhood parks; to restore fishing streams; to promote sustainable tourism; and to enhance resource stewardship.

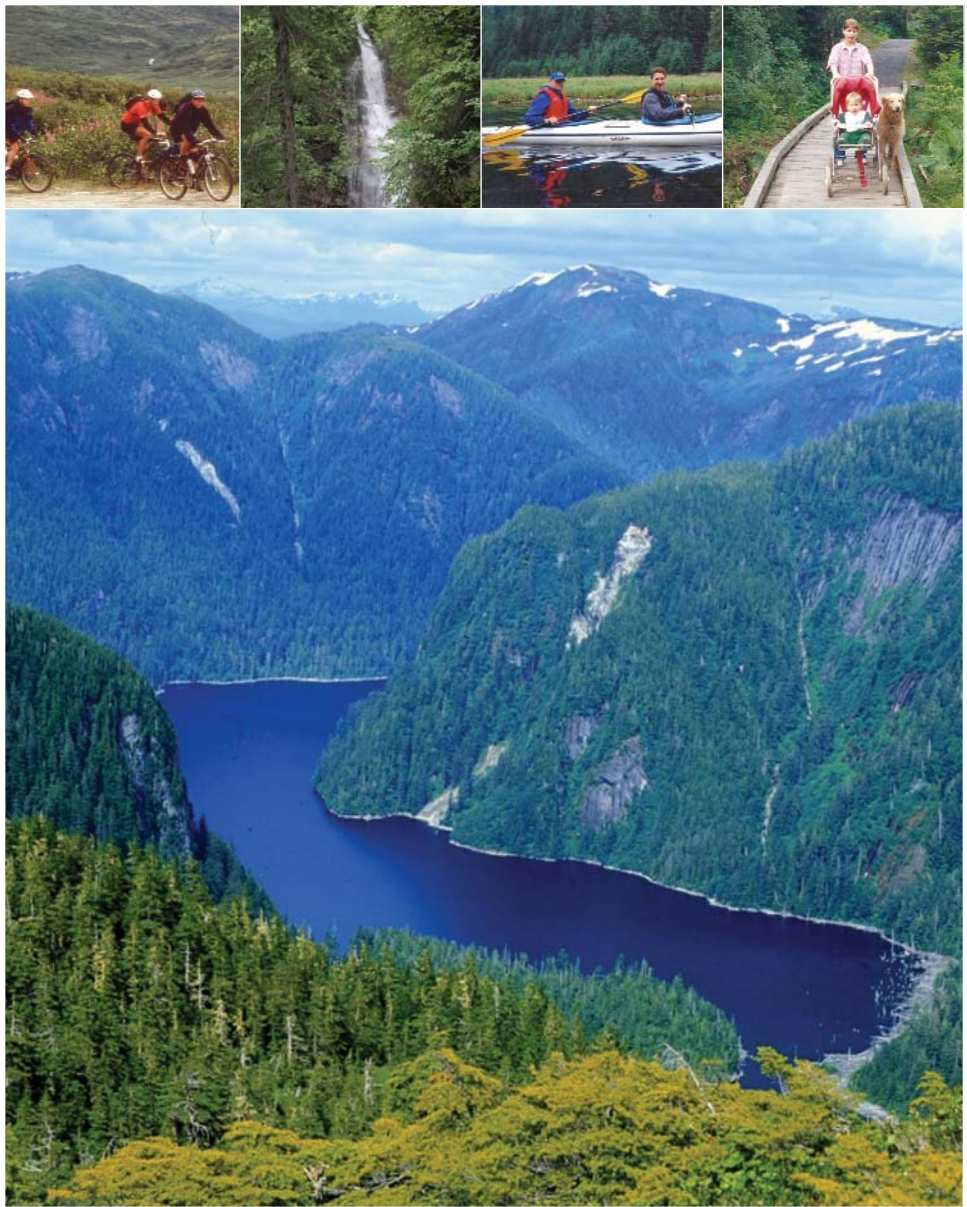
In serving communities, we have learned that there is always more to be done. But we also know the importance of taking time to celebrate accomplishments and share the credit. I am pleased to share a few highlights of our service to communities across the country. These projects illustrate the collective achievement of NPS and a long list of valued project partners. We believe these accomplishments speak not only for themselves but for all 300 community projects NPS assisted in 2004.

Sam Stokes

Samuel N. Stokes, Chief
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

The goal of NPS involvement is to bring tangible change to communities. We know from experience that these changes are often the catalysts for longer-term projects and successes. In 2004, National Park Service community projects reported more than 680 new trail miles, more than 330 newly protected river miles, more than 22,700 acres of newly protected natural areas and more than \$40 million leveraged from other funding sources.

SEAtails, Southeast Alaska **Bringing communities together.** Majestic mountains plunge dramatically into rocky shores of gemlike islands—Southeast Alaska—home to a unique collection of isolated but culturally linked communities that also happen to share world class hiking, biking, skiing and kayaking trails. In partnership with state and federal partners, nonprofit groups and these communities, NPS helped create SEAtails (Southeast Alaska Trail System), a recreation partnership that utilizes the Alaska Ferry to promote the local economy through sustainable tourism and works cooperatively on trail guides, construction and maintenance. **Community Partners:** Angoon, Coffman Cove, Craig, Haines, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Gustavus, Juneau, Kake, Ketchikan, Naukati West, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Thorne Bay, Whale Pass, Wrangell, Trails & Recreation Access for Alaska



Rio Grande Riverpark, El Paso, Texas **One trail leads to many.** NPS convened the Riverpark Task Force, provided guidance on funding, and then actively engaged the community in trail design, construction, public art and celebrations. The new Rio Grande Riverpark (16 miles and growing) is energizing a wider effort to create a 57-mile network of walking and bicycling trails and to protect park lands along river corridors in the El Paso region. The trail is also supported by Groundwork El Paso, a new organization fostered by NPS and EPA. **Partners:** City/County of El Paso, El Paso del Norte Health Foundation, Chamizal National Memorial, Groundwork El Paso, Texas Parks and Wildlife, El Paso Community Foundation, World Wildlife Fund

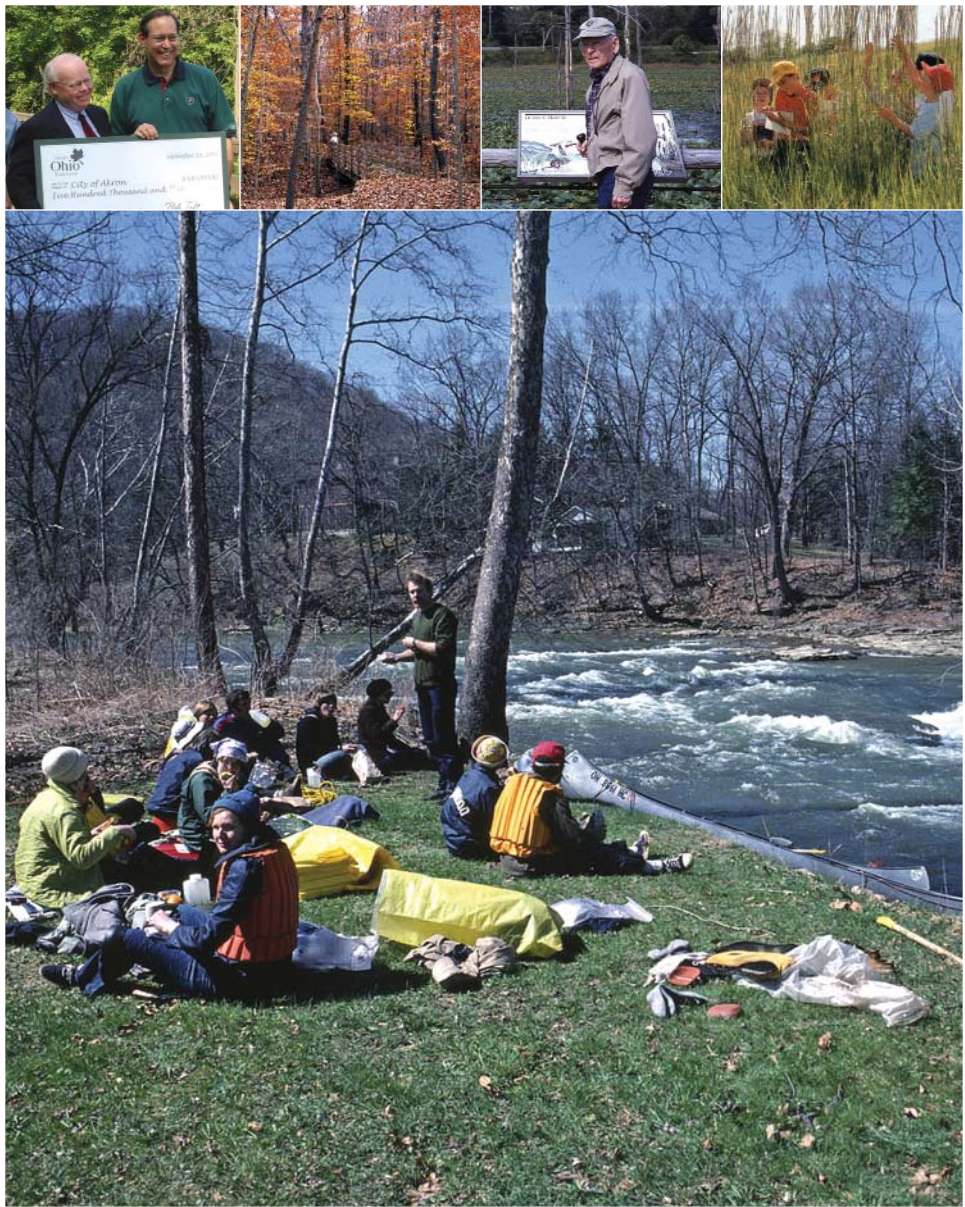


Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, California Enhancing the visitor experience.

Since most visitors experience the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary from the shore, this new 60-mile trail’s potential for creatively communicating the Sanctuary’s natural and cultural significance was recognized early on. NPS helped partners identify important interpretive themes and stories along the trail and determine how to integrate them with the trail’s alignment and design. The result is a stunningly beautiful coastal walking and bicycling trail punctuated by an engaging series of wayside interpretive signs. **Partners:** Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, California Coastal Commission, California State Parks, Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks and Open Space District, Santa Cruz County Sanctuary Interagency Task Force

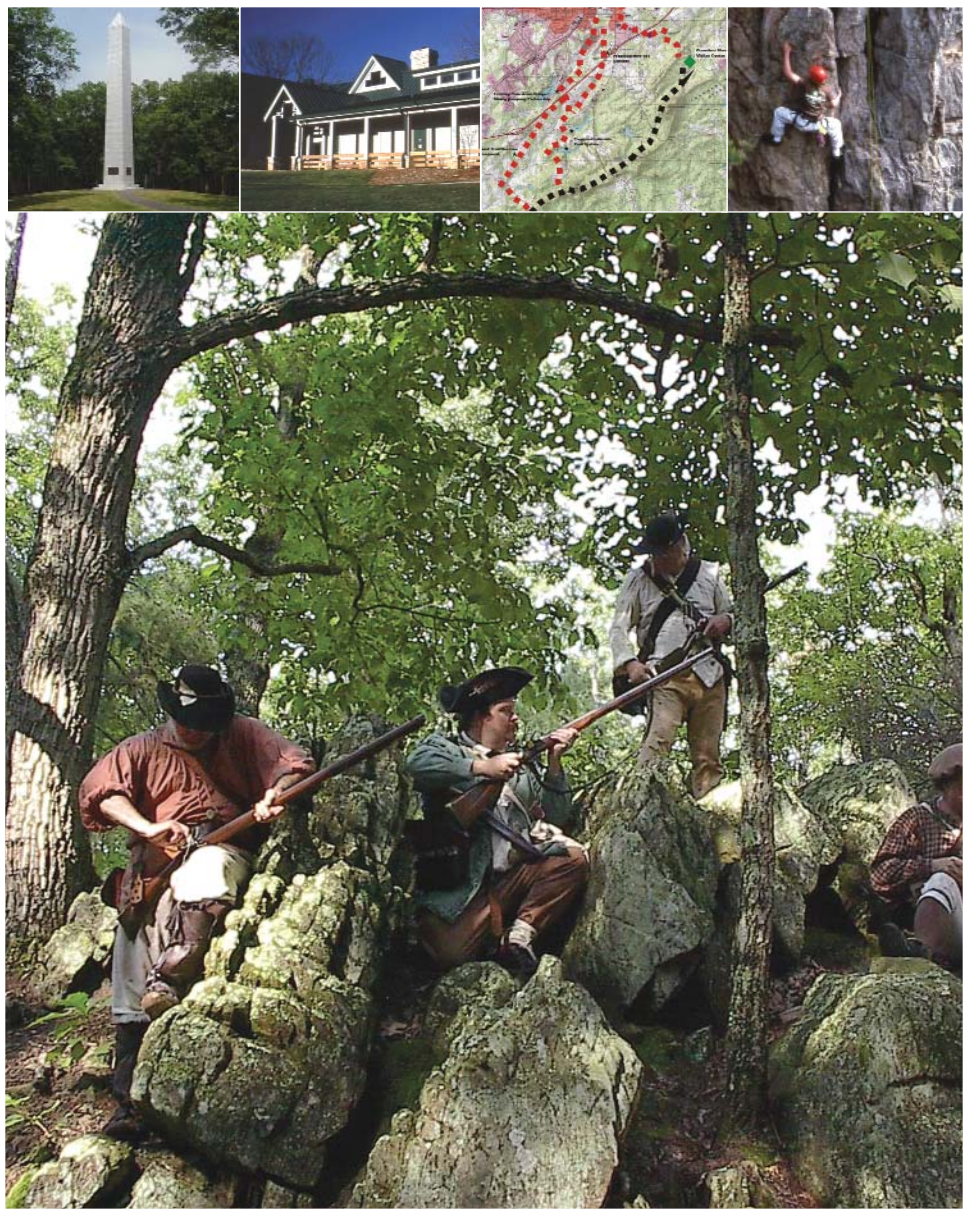


Ohio Greenways, Ohio **Statewide efforts yield local results.** Working with the Ohio Greenways Project and the Ohio Conservation and Environmental Forum, NPS assisted a statewide greenways planning effort that played a formative role in recommendations for the state's Clean Ohio Fund. Signed into law by Governor Taft in 2001, the Fund provided \$150 million for open space, stream and watershed protection, \$25 million for farmland preservation and \$25 million for local trail projects over four years. With half of the money distributed, the Fund has resulted in the protection of more than 10,000 acres and construction of more than 80 miles of new trails. "NPS brought balance to the planning process — they attracted diverse partners and helped us keep recreational and ecological values in perspective." —Elaine Marsh, Project Director, Ohio Greenways



Kings Mountain Gateway, North Carolina/South Carolina Linking national parks and gateway communities.

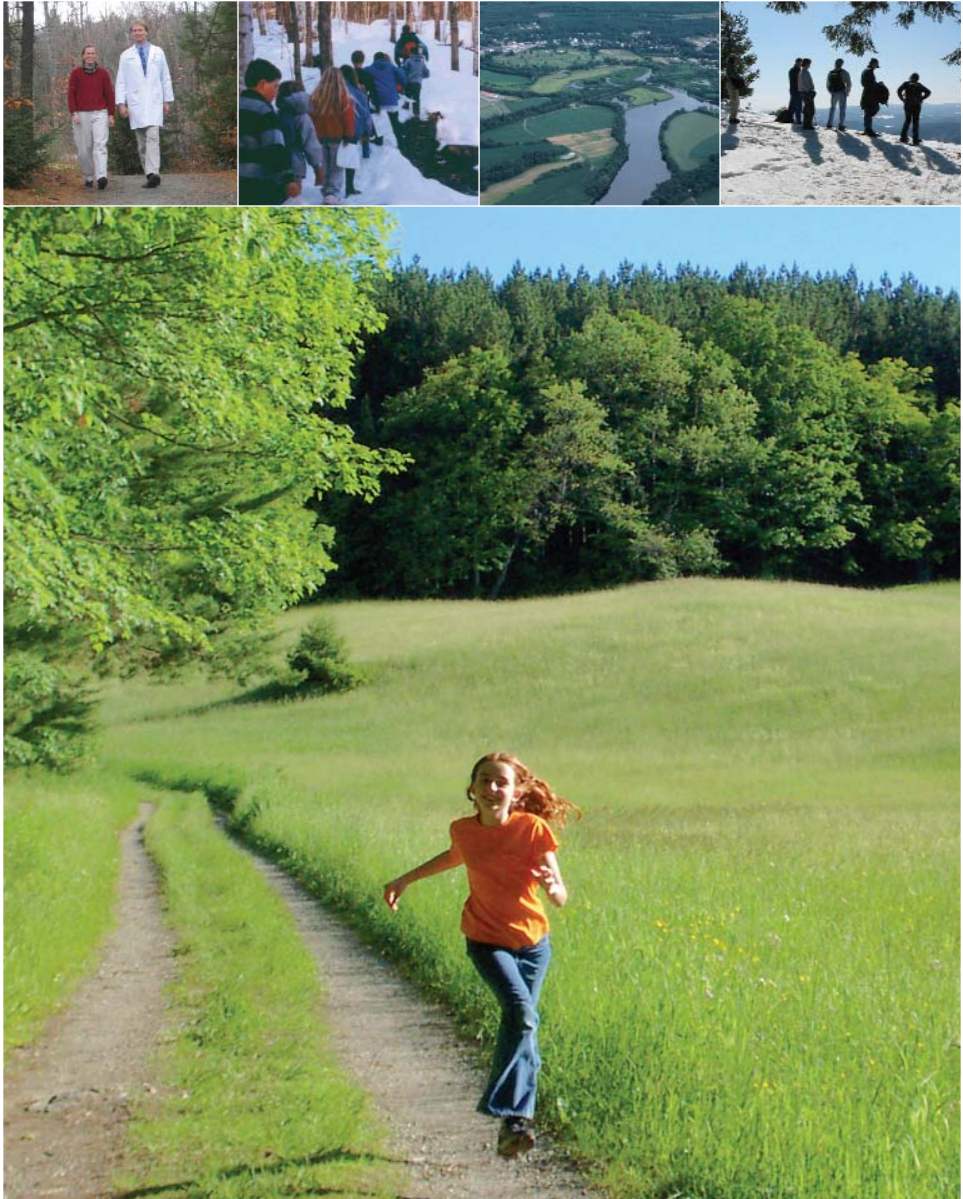
Kings Mountain National Military Park commemorates a pivotal victory by American Patriots over Loyalists during the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War. Today, NPS is working with North and South Carolina state park agencies, local governments and regional nonprofits to establish an 80-mile hiking and biking trail network connecting the national park with nearby state parks, the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the gateway community of Kings Mountain so visitors can enjoy parks in new ways. “Beyond the trail linkages, we’re working with the city and business owners on design enhancements to strengthen the entrance experience along the gateway route connecting the city with both state parks and the national park.” –Bill Lane, Landscape Architect, National Park Service



Upper Valley Trails for Life, New Hampshire/Vermont Promoting better health via

trails. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Active Living By Design program, a partnership led by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, which includes NPS, is implementing an innovative plan to increase physical activity among residents of four communities in New Hampshire and Vermont. To date, the partnership has initiated a "prescription for walking" program at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and a four-town trail guide to promote the significant health benefits of physical activity. "In essence, we are addressing and preventing health concerns related to a sedentary lifestyle by increasing awareness of local opportunities to be active on trails, enhancing access to trails and protecting trails for the future."

—Wally Elton, Executive Director, Upper Valley Trails Alliance



Groundwork USA Initiative **Changing places, Changing lives.** Through an innovative partnership with EPA, NPS is engaging citizens in transforming their communities by starting locally-based, nonprofit environmental businesses called Groundwork Trusts. Each Trust involves residents, businesses, government and diverse organizations in creative new alliances to improve the local environment, economy and quality of life. Projects emphasize a practical, hands-on approach and build on local assets: developing and enhancing park and recreation facilities, reclaiming derelict land, restoring rivers, building walking and bicycling trails, encouraging volunteer stewardship and providing environmental education and job training.

Groundwork USA Communities: Bridgeport, CT, Concord, NH, Dallas, TX, Denver, CO, Elizabeth, NJ, El Paso, TX, Gary, IN, Lawrence, MA, Milwaukee, WI, Minneapolis, MN, New Orleans, LA, Providence, RI, Somerville, MA, Yonkers, NY



Fleshman Creek, Montana **Restoring trout habitat.** Fleshman Creek, once a side channel of the Yellowstone River, had accumulated years of muck and urban pollutants from stormwater runoff and wind-blown garbage. In partnership with the City of Livingston and Trout Unlimited, NPS helped to design and plan a stream restoration project to provide trout spawning and rearing habitat. Adjacent floodplain areas were created for native plant colonization and to provide stream access for local residents. Project images were taken immediately after construction and after a full growing season. **Partners:** City of Livingston, Future Fisheries Program, Trout Unlimited, 1-Fly Foundation, Tom's of Maine, National Park Foundation



Local Assistance Projects in 2004



Alabama

3D Mining Camp and Nature Trail
Bradford Creek Greenway
Eufaula Rails-to-Trails
Lowndes County Heritage Trails

Alaska

AK Trail Protection Handbook
Caribou Lakes Access Trails
Chilkoot River Corridor Conservation
Glennallen Community Trails
Kodiak Road System Trails
Skagway Area Trails

Arizona

Apache Junction Open Space Preservation
Guadalupe Trails and Wellness
Middle Gila Conservation Partnership
Pima-Pinal Regional Trails - Catalina
Pinal County Trail System / Association
University of Arizona Arboretum Trails

Arkansas

Arkansas River Trail

California

Ahwahnee Hills Regional Park
Baxter Creek Gateway Design
Big Lagoon Restoration
Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Regional Trails
Chollas Creek and Bayside Branch Trail System
Kernville Riverwalk
Los Angeles Community Gardens
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Trail
Oakland Community Park Stewardship
San Francisco Bay Trail, Richmond
Santa Rosa Citywide Creeks
Santiago Creek A Community Vision
Upper San Gabriel River Watershed
Western Puente Hills Access

Colorado

52-85 Trails (formerly Firestone Trail Project)
Central City Trails and Open Space
Clear Creek Greenway
Cortez to Mesa Verde (CO) Trail
Durango Riverfront Park
Hinsdale Trails
Hutchinson Homestead and Ranch
Kiowa County Community Conservation
North Fork Historic District Community
Development

Connecticut

Mianus River Park Restoration
Quinnipiac River Trail
Scantic River Watershed
Shoreline Greenway Trail

Florida

Crane Point Restoration
DeSoto Trail
Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail
Florida Keys Paddling Trail
Hontoon Island Dead River Paddling Trail
Lee County Trails
Manatee County Greenways and Trails
Polk County Unified Greenway System
Saxon Brook Urban Trail and Good Neighbor Trail
St. Johns County Greenways and Blueways
Swales-to-Trails

Georgia

Chattahoochee Hill Country Green Infrastructure
Clarksville Trails and Conservation

Hawai'i

Hawai'i Coastal Lands
Kalama Park Whale Trail
Kaua'i Wetland Protection

continues next page

Local Assistance Projects in 2004

continued

Idaho

Indian Creek Daylighting
Moscow Mountain Recreation Area
Rathdrum Mountain Recreation Area

Illinois

Chicago/Calumet Underground Railroad
Illinois Special Places Initiative
Chouteau Island Greenspace Protection

Indiana

Gary Greenlink Project
Groundwork Gary
Indianapolis Bicycle Friendly Community Design
Wabash River Heritage Corridor

Iowa

Creston Bike/Walking Trail

Kansas

Chase County Tall Grass Trail
Marysville Rail Trail

Kentucky

Bowling Green Urban Greenway

Louisiana

Camp Salmen Park
Groundwork New Orleans

Maine

Damariscotta Mills Alewife Restoration
Kennebec Messalonskee Trails



Oxford Hills Trails
Presumpscot River Greenway
Rangeley Region Trail Development

Maryland

Community Watershed Dialogue

Massachusetts

Chelsea Creek Restoration

Michigan

Connecting Michigan
Down River Linked Greenways
Genesee, Lapeer, Shiawassee Greenways
Michigan Maritime Heritage
Noquemanon Trails Network
Saginaw Bay Green Infrastructure Vision

Minnesota

Casey Jones Trail
Czech Area Heritage Trail



Groundwork Minneapolis
Paynesville/Lake Koronis Recreation Trail
Ryan Lake Park and Trail
Schmidt Lake Management Plan
St. Croix Valley Trail
Swedish Immigrant Trail

Mississippi

Hancock County Greenways
Oxford Community Pathways
Tulane Trace Greenway

Missouri

Centennial Greenway (University City)
River des Peres Watershed Coalition
Grant's Trail

Montana

Flathead Watershed Streambank Stabilization
Gallatin County Trails
Lincoln County Trails
Mayor's Landing Yellowstone River Restoration
Missouri Headwaters (MT) Legacy Trail
Two Rivers Restoration

Nebraska

Central City Community Trails
Fort Calhoun Trails
Nebraska Trails
U of Nebraska Agri-Environmental Education Trail

Nevada

Baker Village and Basin Trails
Beatty Habitat Trails
Henderson Open Space Conservation
Heritage Greenway Trail - West
Virgin River Conservation

New Hampshire

Farmington Downtown Greenbelt
Winnepesaukee River Trail

New Jersey

Hackensack River Water Trail
Liberty-Water Gap Trail
South Jersey Connections

New Mexico

Bernalillo County East Mountain Open Space
Dona Ana County Open Space
Gallup Trails 2010
Santa Fe Open Space Stewardship
Socorro Bosque Bike/Hike Trail
Taos Green Infrastructure

Local Assistance Projects in 2004

continued

New York

Hudson River Greenway Trail
Hudson River Lighthouse Trail
Hyde Park Trail Extension
Rome Mohawk River Trail
Seneca River Canal Trail
East River Waterfront, Lower East Side
High Bridge Greenway
Newtown Creek
Saw Mill River Protection



North Carolina

Brunswick County Greenways and Trails
Haw River Trail
Perquimans County Greenways and Blueways

Ohio

NW Ohio Linkages
Oklahoma
Ft. Sill Compatible Land Conservation

Oregon

Ashland Trails and Open Space Network
Corvallis-to-the-Sea Trail
Mill Creek Greenway
Oregon State Trails System
Siuslaw Estuary Water Trail
Tillamook Interpretive Trail
Willamette Greenway

Pennsylvania

Cherry Creek Watershed Conservation Plan
Columbia River Park
Community Watershed Dialogue-Pennsylvania
Pennypack Creek River Conservation Plan
Raystown Branch Juniata River Water Trail
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership
Susquehanna River Water Trail

Tennessee

Activate Chattanooga
Cumberland Trail

Texas

Austin Stewardship Program for
Open Space Lands
Blanco Community Trails
Brownsville Historic Battlefield Trail System
Central Texas Ft. Hood Nature Area
Colorado River Corridor Protection
Goliad Canoe Trail
Groundwork Dallas

Groundwork El Paso
Harris County Flood Lands Management
Luling Zedler's Mills Restoration
Mission Butterfly Park
Seguin Walnut Branch Restoration/Park
Development
Spring Creek Greenway

Vermont

Mad River Greenway
Rutland County Physical Activity Project
Woodstock Trails Partnership

Virginia

Central Virginia GreenPrint Assessment
Community Watershed Dialogue-Virginia
Northern Neck Conservation Initiative
Roanoke Valley/Blue Ridge Parkway
Trail Assessment

Washington

Whatcom County Chain-of-Trails
Elbe-to-Ashford Rail-with-Trail
Glacier-to-(Puget) Sound Conservation Corridor
Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Access and
Water Trail
Moses Lake Community Pathways and Trails
Ohop Watershed Stewardship
Orcas Island Pathways
Pierce County Trails
Rock Creek Open Space and Trails
Toledo Trails and Riverfront Park
Wenatchee Foothills Community Trails

West Virginia

Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Conservation
Cheat Canyon and Big Sandy Conservation
Grafton Rail-Trail
Greater Charleston Greenway
Lower Greenbrier River Greenway
Preston Rail-Trails
Upper New Wild and Scenic River Study



Wisconsin

Groundwork Milwaukee
Kelly Creek Environmental Education Area
Middleton Comprehensive Trails
Milwaukee Urban Water Trail
Milwaukee Watershed Plan and Conservation
Neighborhood House Nature Center
Northeast Wisconsin Lake Michigan Water Trail
Sand County Water Trail

Wyoming

Wheatland Pathway



Multi-State Projects

Arizona-California

Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail

Arkansas-Illinois-Missouri

Mississippi River Trail

Arizona-Utah

Kanab-Fredonia Trail

California-Nevada

Sierra Front Recreation and Trails

Iowa-South Dakota

Big Sioux Canoe Trail

Illinois-Indiana

Crown Point Trails Network/NW Indiana Bikeways
Wolf Lake Vision

Illinois-Missouri

Confluence Greenway Education Initiative
Gateway Wildlands

Kentucky-Virginia

Pine Mountain Trail

Maine-New Hampshire-Vermont-New York

Northern Forest Canoe Trail

Maryland-West Virginia

Allegheny Highlands Trail Links

Minnesota-North Dakota

Red River of the North Historic Canoe Trail

North Carolina-South Carolina

Kings Mountain Gateway

North Carolina-Tennessee

French Broad River Blueway/Greenways

New Hampshire-Vermont

Connecticut River Birding Trail
Cross-Rivendell Trail
Upper Valley Trails for Life

New Jersey-New York-Pennsylvania

Delaware River Water Trail

Oregon-Washington

Lower Columbia River Water Trail

Pennsylvania-West Virginia

Upper Mon Water Trail Interpretation

Tennessee-Virginia

Southern Appalachians Regional Greenways



Coming in 2005: A New Focus on Networks

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program will help create local, regional and state networks of parks, rivers, trails, greenways and open spaces by collaborating with community partners and National Park areas in every state. (2005 Strategic Plan, Goal 1).

Applying for Assistance: Visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/rtpca to learn more about our program, including contact information and how to apply for assistance. You will also find a range of resources for advancing community conservation projects.

PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS: Small photos l to r are designated by a,b,c,d. Jennifer Waite, NPS: Cover, 7; Jason Fiering: cover b; Gary Weiner: cover a, cover d, 9a, 9b; Alaska Division of Community and Business Development: cover c; Paul Cusumano, NPS: cover e, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 11b; Alaska Division of Tourism: 2a, 11d, back cover a, back cover b; Linda Stonier, NPS: 4, 4a, 4b, 4c; Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary 4d; Ohio Greenways: 5, 5b, 5c, 11a, 12a, 12c, inside back cover b; Paul Labovitz, NPS: 5a, 7a, 11c, 12d; NC Division of Parks and Recreation: 6, 6d, back cover d; Virginia Lopez, Lebanon (NH) Recreation and Parks Department 7a; John A. Rush, courtesy Upper Valley Land Trust (UULT): 7c; Kathy Tefft, courtesy UULT: 7d; Robert Lamprey, courtesy UULT: inside back cover a; Groundwork USA: 8, 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d, back cover e; Rory Robinson, NPS: 10b; Maura Cronin: 10d, inside back cover d; All other photos by NPS staff.



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